



United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Office of Public Affairs
Region 5
77 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Illinois Indiana
Michigan Minnesota
Ohio Wisconsin

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

U.S. EPA will accept written comments on the Proposed Plan during a Public Comment Period:

Date: October 14 to November 14, 1994

PUBLIC MEETING AND INFORMAL INFORMATION SESSIONS

U.S. EPA will hold two public meetings and two informal information sessions to explain the Proposed Plan. The public meetings will be a more formal setting with a presentation by U.S. EPA, a question-and-answer period, and public comment time. The informal sessions will give citizens the opportunity to talk with U.S. EPA, Illinois EPA, and Illinois Department of Public Health representatives in an informal one-on-one setting. Oral and written comments will also be accepted at the meetings.

Tuesday, October 25
Venice Senior Citizen Center
Brown and Klein Streets
Venice, IL

Wednesday, October 26
Granite City Township Hall
2060 Delmar Avenue
Granite City, IL

Informal sessions: 3:30 to 6 p.m.
Public meetings: 7 p.m.

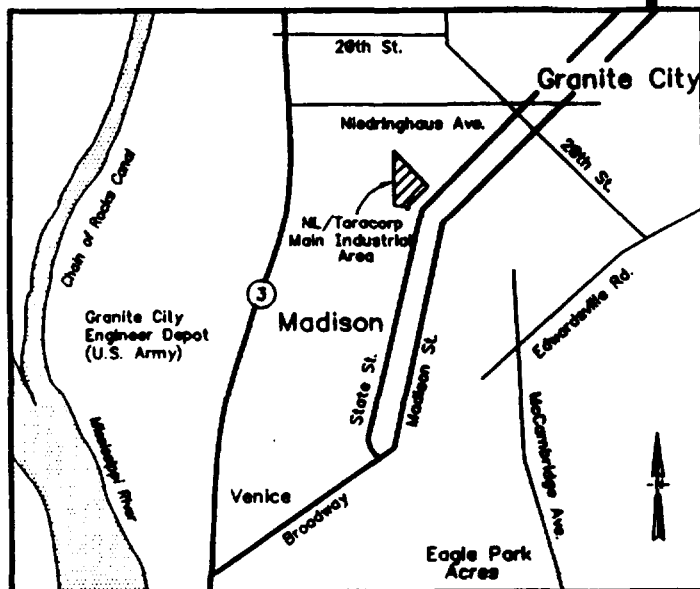


FIGURE 1

1. Section 117(a) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) requires publication of a notice and Proposed Plan for site remediation. The Proposed Plan must also be made available to the public for comment.

PROPOSED PLAN

NL INDUSTRIES/TARACORP

SUPERFUND SITE

Granite City, Illinois
October 1994

INTRODUCTION

This Proposed Plan summarizes the residential soil cleanup level that has been considered by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) for the NL Industries/Taracorp Superfund site in Granite City, Illinois (Figure 1).¹ Pertinent documents in the Administrative Record and Information Repositories should be consulted for in-depth details on the development and evaluation of the residential soil cleanup level.

U.S. EPA is considering an amendment to the 1990 Record of Decision (ROD) that detailed the cleanup to be done at this site. For this project, U.S. EPA divided the NL Industries/Taracorp site into three areas of concern: the Main Industrial Properties, the Adjacent Residential Areas, and the Remote Fill Areas. These areas are described in detail on page 2.

Public input on the proposed residential soil cleanup level and the information that supports this is an important contribution to the process. Based on new information or public comment, U.S. EPA may modify the cleanup level. The public is encouraged to review and comment on the proposed residential soil cleanup level considered for the NL Industries/Taracorp site.

BACKGROUND

The NL Industries/Taracorp Site is located at 16th Street and Cleveland Boulevard in Granite City, Illinois. The approximately 16-acre site is located across the Mississippi River, 2 miles east of St. Louis, Missouri (Figure 2). In 1903, the facility was opened by Hoyt Metal for metal refining, fabricating, and related work. The facility was later sold and renamed United Lead. NL Industries purchased United Lead in 1928 and operated the facility until 1979, when it was purchased by Taracorp, Inc., whose operations included the manufacture of metal products. Facility operations included a secondary lead smelter used for purifying/reprocessing lead-containing scrap and used batteries.

In December 1982, the site was proposed for the National Priorities List (NPL), the U.S. EPA list of sites with serious hazardous waste problems. Sites on this list are studied and cleaned up by U.S. EPA or by anyone who owned or operated the site or who generated or transported waste to the site. U.S. EPA refers to those people/companies/entities as potentially responsible parties (PRPs). The site was included on the NPL in 1986.

In May 1985, NL Industries, as former owner of the site, voluntarily entered into an Agreement and Administrative Order by Consent with U.S. EPA and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA). Under this legal agreement, NL Industries was required to initiate a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) to study the hazardous waste problems at or near the site, and to determine ways to correct the problems. The RI/FS began in January 1987 and ended in March 1990. The RI results indicated that some possible health risks from the NL Industries/Taracorp site came from direct contact with and ingestion of contaminated soils and materials, and from breathing contaminated dust. In May 1993, a document called an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) was issued to allow the disposal of excavated remote fill material in an off-site landfill instead of at the Taracorp site. Another ESD was issued in January 1994 to allow the

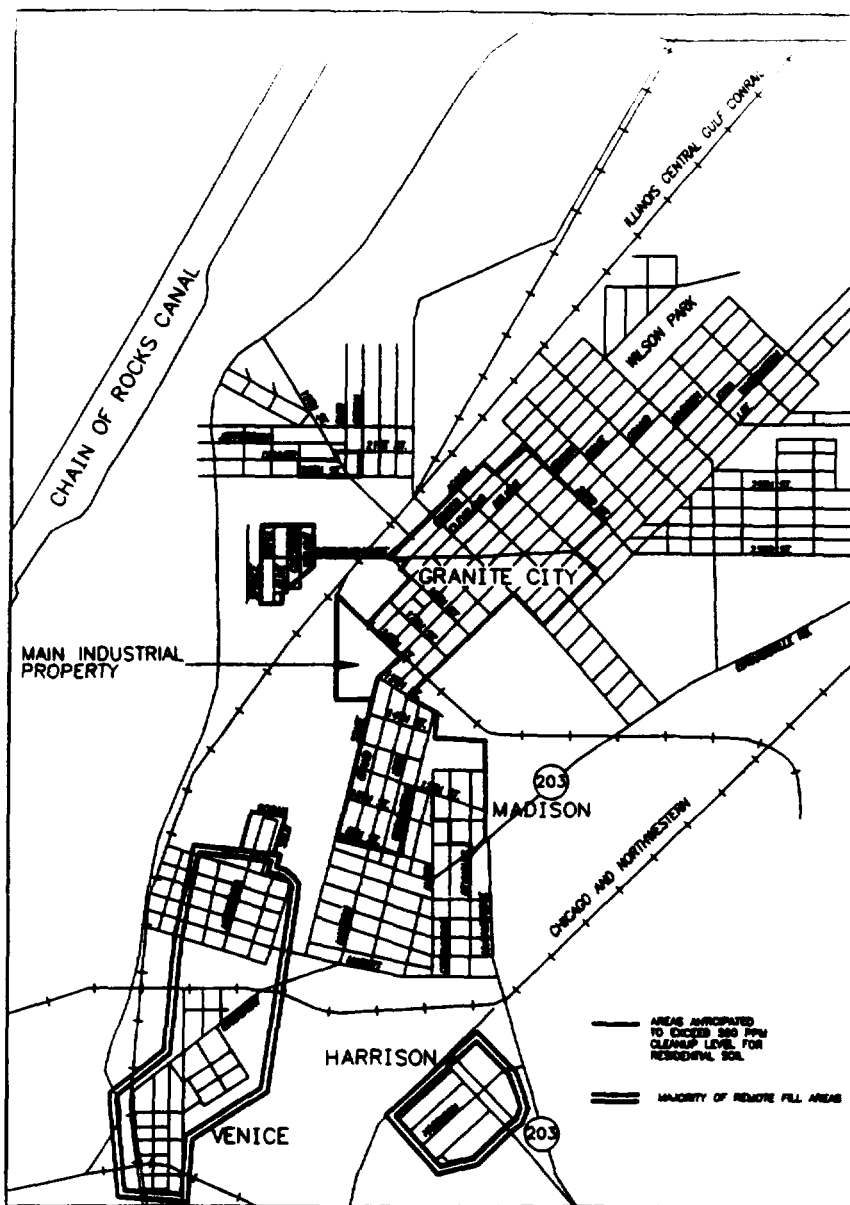


FIGURE 2

disposal of excavated residential soil in an off-site landfill instead of in the Taracorp pile.

Recent information has indicated that other health risks are associated with lead and metals concentrations above the Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) in some on-site and off-site wells. MCLs are safe concentrations determined by federal regulations, as specified in the Safe Drinking Water Act. To address this new information, U.S. EPA is developing a second FS addendum, which will review appropriate cleanup alternatives for the Taracorp pile, the Main Industrial Area, and ground water. U.S. EPA will do pilot studies and release another proposed plan in 1995 for these areas.

BACKGROUND (cont.)

The NL Industries/Taracorp site was divided into three areas of concern where lead contamination may be a health threat to the community: the Main Industrial Properties, the Adjacent Residential Areas, and the Remote Fill Areas.

Main Industrial Properties: These properties consist of approximately 30 acres that formerly contained the lead smelting facility (NL Industries/Taracorp), a slag pile¹ recycling operation [previously St. Louis Lead Recyclers (SLLR), now Trust 454], a trucking company (BV&G Transport), and a fuel oil distributor (Rich Oil). Two waste piles filled with lead wastes and materials from battery cases (the Taracorp pile and the SLLR pile) cover portions of this area, with a combined volume of approximately 91,000 cubic yards.

Adjacent Residential Areas: These areas include approximately 500 acres within the cities of Granite City, Venice, and Madison, Illinois. Soils tested from these areas contained lead levels that could be a health threat to the community. Areas closest to the site have the highest levels of lead contamination, which are primarily due to airborne dust from the lead smelting operations. The residential soil cleanup level is being reconsidered under a federal court agreement.

Remote Fill Areas: These areas include approximately 30 locations in the Eagle Park Acres subdivision, where battery case materials containing lead were used as fill and paving material in low areas. The Remote Fill Areas also include several residences and most of the alleys in Venice Township (south and southeast of Madison), three areas north of Granite City (Missouri Avenue and Sand and Schaeffer Roads), four areas within Granite City, and two areas in Glen Carbon, Illinois. U.S. EPA has cleaned up approximately 20 of these locations.

SUMMARY OF SITE RISKS

As part of the RI at the NL Industries/Taracorp site, U.S. EPA conducted Health Risk Assessments to determine if soil or ground water from the site could affect human health. The assessments identified two exposure pathways at the site: 1) direct contact with and ingestion of contaminated waste materials and soils, and 2)

inhalation of contaminated airborne dusts. Additionally, ground water south/southwest of the site is not known to be used for drinking-water purposes. Based on this information, it was determined that cleanup alternatives to be proposed in 1995 should address the Taracorp pile; Area 1 battery case materials and soils; battery case materials at Eagle Park Acres; Venice Township alleys and nearby communities; and ground water. This Proposed Plan addresses nearby residential surface soils.

RESIDENTIAL SOIL CLEANUP LEVEL

Based on current information, U.S. EPA calculated the "protective" cleanup level for lead in residential soil. U.S. EPA is recommending 500 parts per million (ppm) as a protective, practical cleanup level, because a lower cleanup level will greatly increase the cost to clean up lead-contaminated soil.

THE NEXT STEP

U.S. EPA will consider public comments received during the Public Comment Period before choosing the final residential soil lead cleanup level for the site. If the residential soil lead cleanup level is different from 500 ppm, as outlined in the March 1990 ROD, U.S. EPA will describe the final cleanup level in another ESD or in a ROD Amendment.

AVAILABLE FROM U.S. EPA

Lead from the smelter and residential soil may enter homes in the form of lead dust. This dust may also include lead from other sources such as lead-based paint.

To address indoor lead dust, U.S. EPA will make available a High-Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) vacuum to citizens who would like to effectively clean up the fine lead dust from the interior of their homes.

SEND IN YOUR COMMENTS

To send your comments to U.S. EPA by mail, write your comments on the insert provided, then fold and mail. All comments must be postmarked by November 14, 1994. Comments will also be taken during the public meetings scheduled for October 25 and 26, 1994.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Anyone interested in learning more about the investigation, the Proposed Plan for controlling contamination at the NL Industries/Taracorp site, or the Superfund process is encouraged to review the Information Repository maintained for the NL Industries/Taracorp site. The Repository contains copies of the RI Work Plan, the RI Report, the FS, the FS Addendum, the Community Relations Plan, the Proposed Plan, the March 1990 ROD, and other materials related to the site. The Information Repository is located at:

Granite City Public Library
2001 Delmar Avenue
Granite City, IL

An Administrative Record, a file which contains the information upon which the selection of the proposed residential soil cleanup level will be based, has also been established at the public library and the U.S. EPA Region 5 office in Chicago.

For further information on the NL Industries/Taracorp site, please contact:

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Office of Public Affairs (P-19J)
U.S. EPA Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604
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USE THIS SPACE TO WRITE YOUR COMMENTS

Your input on the recommended cleanup level for the NL Industries/Taracorp site is important to U.S. EPA. Comments provided by the public are valuable in helping U.S. EPA select a final cleanup level for the site.

You may use the space below to write your comments, then fold and mail. Comments must be postmarked by November 14, 1994. If you have questions about the Public Comment Period, please contact Susan Pastor at (312) 353-1325 or through U.S. EPA's toll-free number at 1-800-621-8431.

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Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

NL INDUSTRIES/TARACORP SITE
PUBLIC COMMENT SHEET

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____

**Place
Stamp
Here**

Susan Pastor
Community Relations Coordinator
Office of Public Affairs (P-19J)
U.S. EPA Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604